

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
BOARD OF FISH COMMISSIONERS

CREATION
OF
NEW
FISHING WATERS

BY
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LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

CREATION OF NEW FISHING WATERS

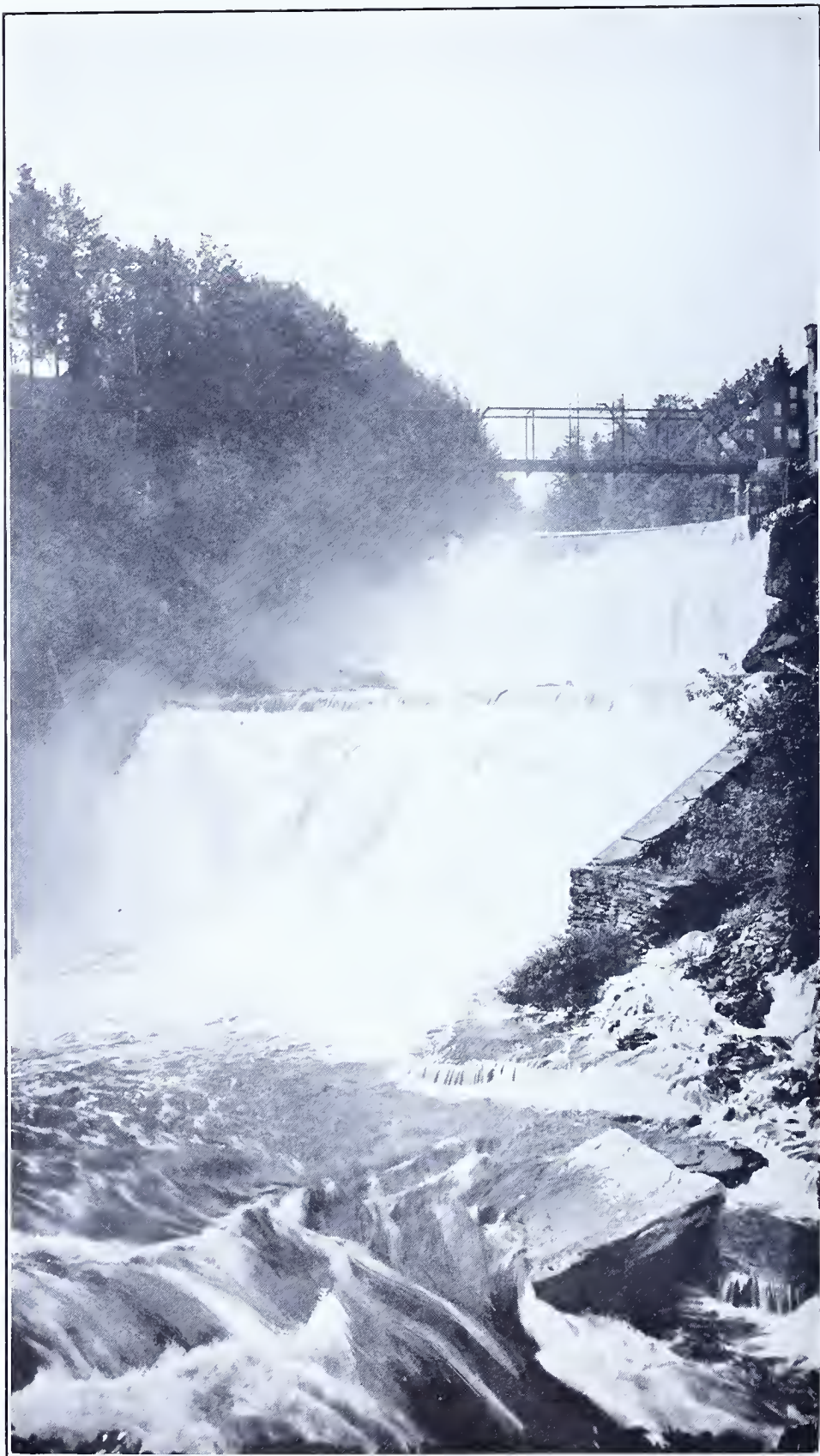
One of the most important functions of the Board of Fish Commissioners is that of providing additional waters for fishing and recreational purposes. It is only second in importance to that of the hatching and raising of fish for distribution to the streams and waters in which the public is allowed to fish.

Pennsylvania has thousands of miles of good fishing streams and numerous lakes and ponds which are open to public fishing. Unfortunately in certain sections there are waters which are not available for the reason that the land owner has posted his property prohibiting trespassing. Where lands are properly posted according to law there is nothing for the fisherman to do but to abide by the provisions of that law.

At one of the first meetings of the Board of Fish Commissioners a resolution was passed refusing to close any waters to the public except those within the wire enclosure of a Game Reserve, the waters within the confines of a cooperative nursery, or within the limits of a public park, borough or city for exhibition purposes. The streams are closed within the Game Reserves for the purpose of assisting the Game Commission in enforcing their laws so that fishermen will not trespass with the excuse of fishing. Those closed for cooperative nurseries is to assist the Associations throughout the Commonwealth operating nurseries in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Fisheries.

Prior to the enactment of the Administrative Code, which provides for a Water and Power Resources Board, it was the custom of corporations or individuals applying for permits for the erection of dams for manufacturing or ice harvesting purposes to either close these dams to trespassing and fishing or to issue permits charging a fixed fee per day for fishing.

Under the provisions of the Administrative Code, the Commissioner of Fisheries is made a member of the Water and Power Resources Board and at one of the first meetings attended, he presented a resolution providing that all permits granted in the future for dam construction and covering the impounding of waters for power and manufacturing purposes should contain, in addition to other conditions, the right to fish in such waters at all times during the open season in accordance with such rules and regulations as might be promulgated by the permittee from time to time with the approval



WALLENPAUPACK HIGH FALLS
(Before Construction of Dam)

of the Board of Fish Commissioners. Of course, this does not apply to dams constructed for domestic purposes.

This resolution was presented on August 21, 1923 and naturally it took several years before any results were shown.

LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

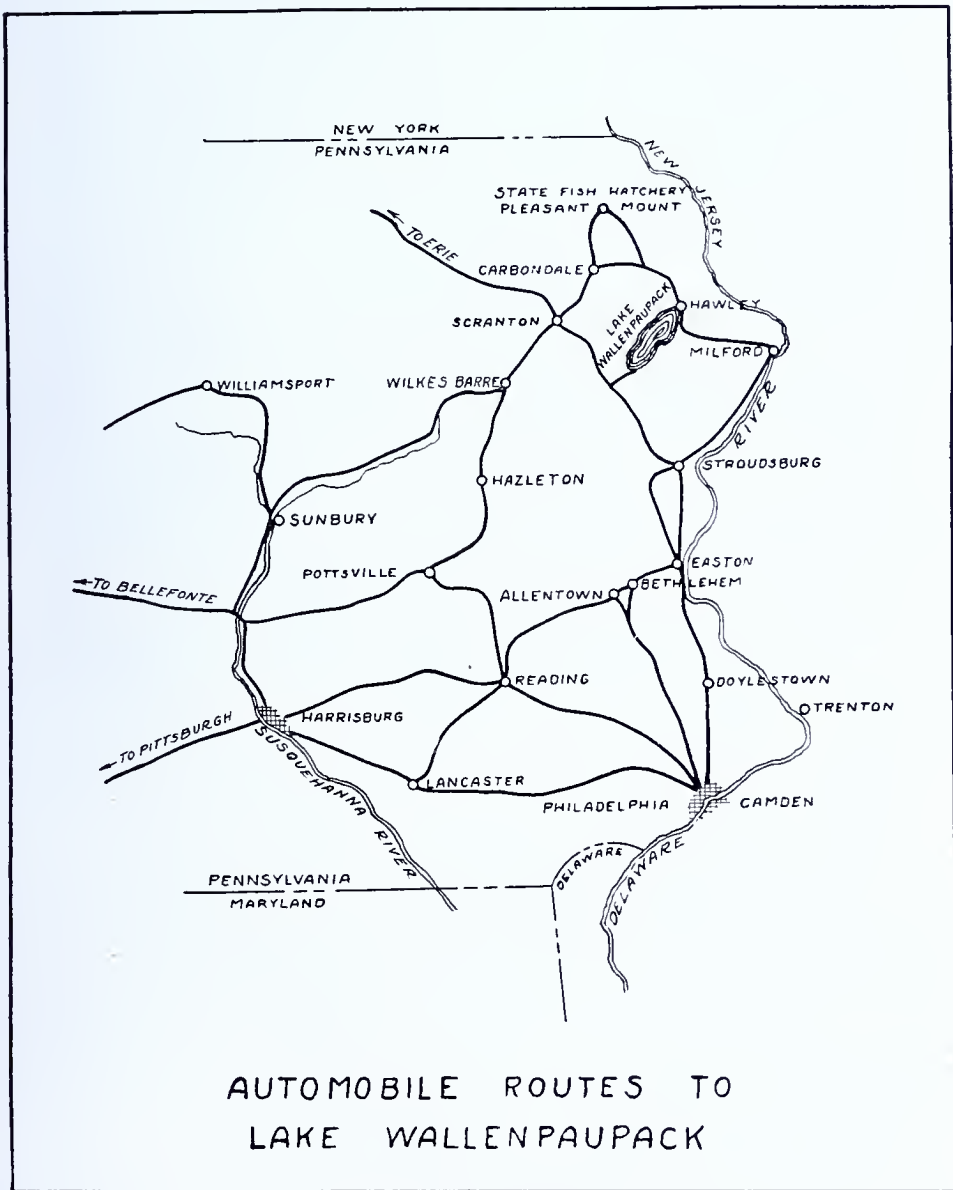
The first project of any magnitude was that of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company for the construction of a dam across the stream known as "The Wallenpaupack", located at a point near Hawley, Wayne County. The lake which was formed by the damming of this stream is known as "Lake Wallenpaupack". The northern portion of the lake is situated in Wayne County and the southern in Pike County. The water surface covers between seven and eight thousand acres, is approximately fourteen miles long, varies in width from two to two and one-half miles, with an irregular shore line measuring approximately fifty-two miles. Upon completion of the dam, this lake was closed to fishing for a period of two years which gave the Board of Fish Commissioners ample time for stocking and to arrange rules and regulations so that it would be a recreational ground for the public not equalled in the State. During the two fishing seasons it was closed, millions of pike perch, yellow perch, bluegill sunfish, catfish, minnows and bass were planted. Also several thousand pairs of adult fish of the same species were supplied for breeding purposes. A program of stocking has been formulated for each year.

On August 1st, 1928 this lake was opened to the public for fishing, swimming, boating and other recreational purposes. It immediately became a popular resort. The Board of Fish Commissioners had representatives on the ground and the first day it was estimated that there were five thousand fishermen. A little over a month later, Labor Day, it was estimated that this number had increased to at least ten thousand fishermen. Of course, all fishermen must have either a resident or a non-resident fishing license. The catches have been most gratifying and the Board has received much commendation for what it has done towards creating what is now one of the finest fishing waters in Pennsylvania. Much credit must be given to the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Allentown, who are the owners, as it could only have been achieved by their excellent cooperation. They have taken great pains to provide public camps and parking sites which are located at convenient places with road connections to the main highways. These camp sites are available for several days without any charge and have water and cooking facilities. Caretakers have been appointed who supply any information which might be desired.



LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

In order that everyone may be thoroughly familiar with the provisions and requirements governing the use of Lake Wallenpaupack, we are setting forth below the regulations as they were promulgated by the Board of Fish Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company:



PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

All persons availing themselves of the privileges of the use of Lake Wallenpaupack and the lands of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and the Pennsylvania Realty and Investment Company, and all holders of permits issued by said companies for boating, camping or other uses of said Lake and surrounding lands, are requested to comply with the following:

1. Standing trees and shrubbery should not be broken, cut, shot at, barked or otherwise injured. Animals may not graze on the company's property.

2. Birds should not be molested or their nests destroyed or interfered with.
3. Fires may be built in holes or pits prepared for the purpose and encircled with the earth taken out, but great care must be taken to extinguish them before they are abandoned. Fires should not be built upon "runways" and matches, cigars, cigarettes or pipe ashes ought to be carefully extinguished after use. Representatives of the company or the Department of Forests and Waters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may call upon anyone to assist in extinguishing forest fires.
4. Signs, posters or advertisements which will disfigure the natural beauty of the company's property should not be erected.
5. All springs and surface waters should be protected from contamination.
6. Any litter, waste or refuse which may accumulate should be removed and the property left in as clean condition after use as it was found when entered upon.
7. Persons using the lake or company lands assume all risk of injury to person or property and waive any and all claim or claims for damages on account of such injury to persons or property that could or might be made by reason of the exercise of the said right, liberty or privilege, and shall indemnify and save harmless the Pennsylvania Realty and Investment Company or Pennsylvania Power and Light Company of and from all claim, loss, damage or injury growing out of such exercise.
8. Please report promptly to the Lake Superintendent or his agent any violation of law or of the terms and conditions of camping, boating and similar permits.

FISHING

Fishing in season will be permitted on the waters of Lake Wallenpaupack, except within 100 feet of or from the Wallenpaupack Dam and Tafton Dyke.

BOATING

Effective August 1st, all permits issued by the Commissioner of Fisheries for the use of rowboats, sailboats and canoes are terminated and it is necessary for the holders of all existing permits to reapply for new permits to be issued annually by the company.

These new permits will include the use of motor boats and will be issued under the following provisions:

1. Each permit will have a number assigned to it and this same number will designate the number of the boat on the company's records. A plate with the corresponding number will be furnished to each holder of a permit and this plate is to be displayed at all times on the boat.
2. Boats of any kind will not be permitted within 100 feet of the Wallenpaupack Dam.
3. Permits for the use of boats may be revoked or cancelled for violation of the laws or of the provisions and requirements of the company, or whenever the company deems it advisable to do so.

PERMITS FOR BOATS TO BE HIRED

Permits for boats to be hired for use on Lake Wallenpaupack will be issued upon payment of the following fees:

Row Boats and Canoes, \$1.00 per annum per boat or canoe.

Motor Boats, sail boats and ice boats (less than six passengers), \$5.00, per annum per boat.

Motor Boats, (six passengers and above) Rates on application.

In all cases where boats are for hire, tariffs or schedules setting forth the rental and terms and conditions of such should be posted on the property in a conspicuous place where patrons may easily see them.



LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

BOAT HOUSES

The erection of boat houses will be permitted along the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack, providing they are constructed to conform to plans and specifications approved by the company and maintained under and subject to the following provisions and requirements:

1. Boat houses should be maintained in good condition and should bear the number of the permit issued therefor, in plainly legible numerals displayed thereon.
2. Permits for erection of Boat Houses will be issued upon payment of a fee of \$1.00 per annum per boat house.
3. The permit for a boat house may be revoked or cancelled for violation of law or of any of the provisions and requirements of the company or whenever the company deems it advisable to do so.

DOCKS

The erection of docks, which should be of the floating type, will be permitted along the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack, provided they are constructed to conform with plans and specifications prepared by the company, or when such plans are approved by the company. They shall be maintained under and subject to the following provisions and requirements:

1. Docks should be securely fastened at all times.
2. On or before December 1st of each year, all docks, except those of a permanent nature constructed on stone or concrete piers, should be removed from the shore line of Lake Wallenpaupack and stored above elevation 1195. Loose boards, steps, etc., on permanent docks should be removed on or before December 1st of each year and stored above elevation 1195.
3. Docks should be maintained in good and safe condition and should bear the number of the permit issued therefor in plainly legible numerals displayed thereon.
4. Permits for docks for use on Lake Wallenpaupack will be issued upon payment of a fee of \$1.00 per annum per dock.
5. Permits issued for docks may be revoked or cancelled for violation of law or of any of the provisions and requirements of the company or whenever the company deems it advisable to do so.

TEMPORARY CAMPS

Camping on the lands of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and the Pennsylvania Realty and Investment Company, other than lands under lease to tenants or other restricted areas, will be permitted provided application is first made in writing on form provided for this purpose to the Lake Superintendent and subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. A suitable trench or pit should be provided at least two feet in depth for the disposal of excreta, said pit to be located on level or gently sloping ground not closer than 100 feet from any spring or surface stream nor above the sources of the camp water supply. Earth from the pit shall be banked on the high side. Before camp is opened the permittee shall provide a quantity of hypochlorite of lime (chlorinated lime or "bleach") equivalent to at least one pound for each week the camp is to be occupied. Contents of the pit shall be thoroughly sprinkled with this chemical twice each week the camp is occupied using not less than one-half pound there-of at each application and immediately thereafter, it shall be covered with a thick sprinkling of clean earth.

When the deposits in such pit have accumulated to within six inches of the surface of the ground, its use should be discontinued and clean earth used to backfill the pit to the original surface of the ground and another pit shall be dug at once.

When the camp is vacated, all such pits should be backfilled with clean earth and any excess excavation neatly rounded over the top.

Garbage should be disposed of in a separate pit similar to that provided for excreta, but garbage shall not be placed in the same pit with excreta.

Kitchen and wash water should not be thrown into any spring or surface water or upon the surface of the ground in the immediate neighborhood of a spring or surface water.

2. The camp site should be kept neat and clean at the time of leaving, so as to make it at least as clean as when entered upon. The permittee shall pay the bill of the company for restoring the site to proper condition if it is not so left.

3. No camp should be erected within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of another camp or until a written permit is received or until the site has been approved by a company officer or agent on the ground. Permanent structures may not be erected. The camp and all property shall be removed from the company's lands within three weeks, unless within that time an extension of the permit for a longer period is granted by the company in writing. A permit fee of \$1.00 for each person shall be enclosed with the application for a temporary site.

These provisions and requirements are issued at this time for the guidance of the companies' guests. The companies expect to revise them from time to time as experience may dictate in the operation of Lake Wallenpaupack.

The Lake Superintendent of the company, whose office is at Wallenpanpack Dam, is in charge of all real estate, land, etc., of the company surrounding the lake; also the operations on the lake, application for permits, as well as complaints, etc., pertaining to these matters should be made to him either in person or by letter addressed to him at Hawley, Wayne County.

PYMATUMING RESERVOIR

Another project is in the making which when completed will be several times the size of Lake Wallenpaupack, and will benefit the fishermen throughout the entire Commonwealth. This project is what is known as "The Pymatuning Reservoir" in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, and will be built primarily to provide sufficient water during dry seasons of the year for domestic and industrial use in the Shenango and Beaver Valleys, but on account of its extensive surface the reservoir will also be able to absorb floods and thus reduce flood damage. When full it will cover an area of 17,880 acres and will be nearly twenty times larger than Conneant Lake, Pennsylvania, and about one-third larger than Chautauqua Lake, New York. It will hold about 74,000,000,000 gallons with an irregular shore line of seventy miles. No doubt the same rules and regulations will be adopted covering this body of water as that of Lake Wallenpaupack.

CONOWINGO DAM

The Conowingo Dam in the Susquehanna River has been completed during the last year. While it is not located in Pennsylvania, nevertheless, it has been of great benefit to Pennsylvania fishermen for the reason that its construction has created a lake approximately twelve miles long, five miles of which are in Pennsylvania. This lake practically reaches the tail race of the power dam at Holtwood, which is located in the Susquehanna River between Lancaster and



AIRVIEW OF LAKE CONOWINGO

York Counties. It is now open to public fishing and is being stocked by the states of Pennsylvania and Maryland. At the time of its construction the Commissioner of Fisheries of the State of Maryland requested the Commissioner of Fisheries of Pennsylvania to come to Baltimore for a conference, in reference to fishways. The dam is approximately 90 feet high and it was agreed by those who were competent to speak on the subject, including representative of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, that it would be useless to attempt to construct a fishway as there is no known fishway in existence which is practicable for a dam of this character. Pennsylvania does not request the installation of fishways as there is no practicable fishway in existence which is applicable to Pennsylvania waters.

It was therefore agreed by the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland that in lieu of the construction of a fishway, the Power Company should contribute to each State the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) payable every year, to be used for the purpose of stocking the lake which was formed by the construction of this dam.

During the last year Pennsylvania has furnished several millions pike perch, sunfish, yellow perch and catfish; also several shipments of large sized bass.

As there might be some question as to the line between the two states, Pennsylvania requested the State of Maryland to have the line properly marked so that fishermen would have no difficulty in ascertaining in which part of the lake they were fishing. Of course, if the fisherman wishes to go into the State of Maryland he would have to take out a Maryland license. All that he would need on the Pennsylvania side is the Pennsylvania license.

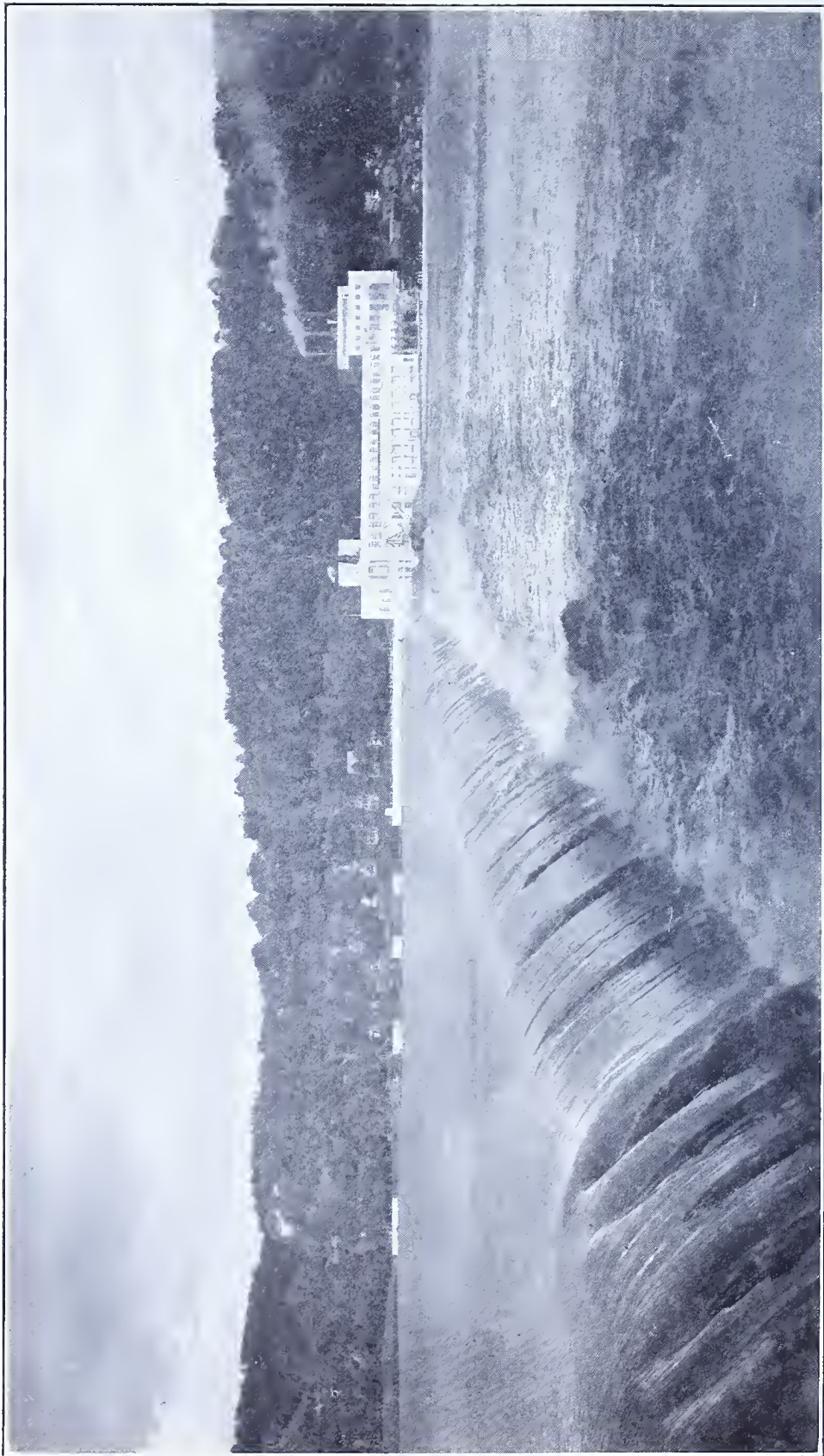
HOLTWOOD DAM

The Board also wishes to mention the Holtwood Dam built many years ago in the Susquehanna River at Holtwood. The lake which was formed by the construction of this dam extends to the vicinity of Safe Harbor, Lancaster County, covering approximately four square miles and is producing much fishing for the public.

ADDITIONAL WATERS

In addition to the foregoing there are forty dams of smaller area which in the near future will be available to the public, rules and regulations are to be drawn up as soon as the dams are completed. Due notice will be given to the public. While the majority cover only a few acres, nevertheless, they will provide excellent fishing waters and will be stocked each year with the species of fish most suitable.

Many miles of excellent trout streams have also been made public at the request of the Board of Fish Commissioners, the purchasers having been those who were interested in the construction of dams.



HOLTWOOD DAM

Fishermen should not forget the millions of acres of forest land which has been purchased by the Department of Forests and Waters. On these lands are many excellent fishing waters. The public is always welcome in the State Forests and every accomodation possible has been created for their comfort. The Board deeply appreciates this close cooperation.

POSTED AREAS

As to the waters in different sections of the Commonwealth which are posted and under private ownership, the courts have ruled that you cannot take a man's property away from him without due process of law. Unfortunately at the time the original grants were made by the Commonwealth they included the land under the waters which were situated thereon, except waters which were termed as navigable.

The Board of Fish Commissioners believes that many of these waters should be acquired by purchase or lease so that the public can have access to them for fishing purposes. Of course, this is a question which is entirely up to the fishermen. If it is to be done through purchase there is only one thing which the fisherman can do and that is to get back of a bill increasing the fisherman's license fee and have the increase in the license set apart in a fund wholly for the purchase of waters of this character. Another method would be by appropriation. The fishermen certainly would be taking a step in the right direction if they supported any measure of this kind should it be introduced at the next session of the Legislature.

As long as the present Board of Fish Commissioners is in existence the fisherman can rest assured that it will bend every effort towards increasing public waters.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Board wishes to say that with the facilities at hand it is doing its best to stock all waters which are open to public fishing. Of course, it could distribute many times the number of fish which are available. The main problem in the restocking of any waters is the regulation, conservation and maintenance, and the Board hopes that with the completion of the two new hatcheries which are at present under way, it will be possible to increase the number of fish in our waters so they will be commensurate with the demands which are being made upon them. The Board will shortly have available a list of the better known trout and bass streams and fishermen who are looking forward to a trip during the coming season can secure a copy and any other information by communicating with the Board of Fish Commissioners at Harrisburg.

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